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Pulaski's Legion,
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(From the Maryland ~~Historical~~ Magazine, Sept. 1918)



Loton"). From the County Court Proceedings, Liber G. No. I, November Court, 1695 (folio 540) we quote the following: "By his Excellency the Governor and Council, October 7th, 1695: came and appeared in council Jacob Young and William York living upon Susquehanna River and it being proposed to them in council the keeping a ferry and ordinary upon each side of the said river, William York on this side the river and Jacob Young on the other side, for which is settled upon them one shilling and six pence for the passage of horse and man and one shilling for a footman, to which they both agree, etc." The same year the Baltimore County Court grants license to William York to keep an ordinary on the south side Susquehanna River and the ferry also (same Liber, folio 391). In 1724 the ferry over Susquehanna River was granted to John Stokes (*Balto. Co. Court Proceedings*, Liber I. S. No. T. W. 4, folio 37). In 1737 it was granted to Humphrey Wells Stokes, who says in his petition: "the place where your petitioner purposes to keep it at being the old ancient place of ferrying and where the main road directly leads to and both nearer in riding and in ferrying across the river that your petitioner conceives it the most proper place" (*Balto. Co. Court Proceedings*, Liber H. W. S. No. I. A. 2, folio 143). In the will of Colonel John Stokes, 1727, the testator leaves to his son George "all that tract called Harmers Towne or commonly called the Ferry with the benefit of the resurvey thereon." (Humphrey Wells Stokes and George Stokes exchanged the lands left them in their father's will, George Stokes taking the lands on the bay which had fallen to his mother from her father Colonel Wells, and Humphrey Wells Stokes taking the lands at the mouth of Susquehanna River.) A little tract of 4½ acres surveyed for Robert Stokes, son and heir of Humphrey Wells Stokes, in 1756, is described as adjoining "Harmer's Town Resurveyed" "one mile above the mouth of Susquehanna River at the old ferry landing." (Unpatented Certificates No. 743; the tract is called "Howell's Deceit"). In 1759 a Land Commission was held to perpetuate the bounds of "Harmer's Town," which then was in the possession of

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Rebecca Stokes, widow of Robert Stokes and daughter of Colonel William Young of Baltimore County (*Balto. Co. Court Proceedings*, Liber H. W. S. No. 4, folio 278 et seq.). The depositions taken before this Commission are interesting. The land is described as "situate and lying on Susquehannah Ferry" and is called "Stokes's or the Ferry land or Harman's Town." As settlements advanced up Susquehanna River, beginning about the year 1700, there came into existence an "upper ferry" to which there are numerous references in the Baltimore County Court Proceedings. It would appear that the Baltimore County end of this ferry was where Lapidum now is at the mouth of Rock Run.

PULASKI'S LEGION.

RICHARD HENRY SPENCER.

Everything connected with the War of the Revolution is interesting to all Americans, but Pulaski's Legion, which fought over many a bravely contested battle-field, has a peculiar charm for Marylanders, for the intrepid commander himself called it "My legion, Maryland legion."

The struggle of the thirteen colonies of North America in 1776, for their independence from the mother country, brought to our shores many lovers of liberty and freedom, who offered their services to the United States, among them the gallant Poles Count Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus Kosciuszko, just from their own struggles in defense of the liberties of their native land; Baron von Steuben, Baron De Kalb, and the Marquis de La Fayette. They all came to our country to battle for the right and to aid us to gain our independence. Their military services are deeply enshrined in our hearts, and their names are forever linked with the land they helped to free.

Casimir Pulaski was born in Podolia, Poland, March 4, 1748. the son of Count Joseph Pulaski, who in 1768 formed the cek



brated Confederation of Bar for the preservation of the liberties of Poland. In 1769 the young patriot joined his father and two brothers and enthusiastically participated in the national struggle against the despotism of King Stanislaus Augustus, but which finally resulted in the dismemberment of Poland. Being outlawed and deprived of his estates, he escaped to Turkey in 1772, and proceeded to France in 1775, where he made the acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin and offered his services to the cause of American Independence. Arriving in Philadelphia in the spring of 1777, he joined the army as a volunteer; distinguished himself at the Battle of the Brandywine, and four days later (September 15) was appointed by the Continental Congress brigadier general and given command of the cavalry. He took part in the Battle of Germantown October 4, and in March, 1778, having resigned his command, in a letter to Congress he suggested the formation of an independent corps, which was approved by General Washington.

The Continental Congress, on March 28, 1778, after the letter from Count Casimir Pulaski had been read, passed the following resolution:

“ *Resolved.* That Count Pulaski retain his rank of brigadier in the army of the United States, and that he raise and have the command of an independent corps to consist of sixty-eight horse, and two hundred foot, the horse to be armed with lances, and the foot equipped in the manner of light infantry; the corps to be raised in such way and composed of such men as General Washington shall think expedient and proper, etc.”¹

This corps was afterwards known as Pulaski's Legion, officered principally by foreigners, and which rendered important services in the War of the Revolution, especially in the Southern campaigns.

In April, 1778, General Pulaski came to Baltimore and

¹ *Journals of The Continental Congress, 1778, vol. x, p. 291.*

opened a recruiting office, notice of which was duly published in *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, Tuesday, April 14, 1778, as follows:

“ April 13, 1778.

“ Congress having resolved to raise a Corps, consisting of Infantry and Cavalry, to be commanded by General Count Pulaski, all those who desire to distinguish themselves in the service of their country, are invited to enlist in that corps, which is established on the same principles as the Roman Legions were. The frequent opportunities which the nature of the service of that corps will offer to the enterprising, brave and vigilant soldiers, who shall serve in it, are motives which ought to influence those who are qualified for admission into it, to prefer it to other corps not so immediately destined to harrass the enemy; and the many captures which will infallibly be made, must indemnify the Legionary soldiers for the hardships they must sustain, and the inconsiderable sum given for bounty, the term for their service being no longer than one year from the time that the corps shall be completed. Their dress is calculated to give a martial appearance, and to secure the soldier against the inclemency of the weather and season. The time for action approaching, those, who desire to have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves in that corps, are requested to apply to Mr. de Sequid (de Segond), Captain of Pulaski's Legion, at Mrs. Ross's house.”²

In the months of April, May, June, and July, 1778, the gallant Pole mainly organized and disciplined in Baltimore an

² Mrs. Ross' boarding house occupied the upper floors of the former residence of Dr. John Stevenson, on the south side of Market (now Baltimore) Street, between Light and Calvert Streets, corner of Public Alley (now Grant Street), where the *Baltimore News* Building stood before the great fire of 1904.

independent corps of three companies of horse, armed with lances, and three companies of infantry, a total of three hundred and thirty, of which twenty-eight were from Pennsylvania, and about sixty-two more than was at first proposed.

Just before the legion was ordered to the front, there was a review of it in Baltimore, according to the following item of news in *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, Tuesday, August 4, 1778:

“On Wednesday last (July 29th), the Hon. General Count Pulaski, reviewed his Independent Legion in this Town. They made a martial appearance and performed many Manoeuvres in a Manner that reflected the highest Honour on both officers and privates.”

Doubtless the beautiful crimson silk banner, embroidered by the fair hands of the Moravian single sisters of Bethlehem, Pa., and which had been presented to the legion two months before by the patriotic women of Baltimore, fluttered in the breeze from the upright lance on that midsummer day.

According to the Diaries in the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem, Pa., on “April 16, 1778, General Pulaski and Colonel Kobatsch (Kowatsch) attend the meeting this afternoon.” And on “May 17. (Sunday), In the English morning service, there were present Samuel Adams, Delegate from Massachusetts and General Pulaski, with some members of his corps, in full dress uniform.”³

In a careful examination of all the diaries at Bethlehem there is not the slightest reference to the presentation of a banner, such as Longfellow narrates in his poem, to be found.

It was during the interval between April 16 and May 17, that the banner was made. “Recent investigations go to show that the General, on visiting the Sisters’ House, saw their beautiful embroidery and that he then ordered them to prepare

³*The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. XIII, pp. 82-83 (1889).

a small cavalry banner for his legion and that the whole transaction was a simple business one.”⁴

In Longfellow's *Complete Poetical Works*, 1893, edited by Horace E. Scudder, in a note to the *Hymn of the Moravian Nuns, at the consecration of Pulaski's Banner*, the editor says: “The historic facts in regard to the banner appear to be that Pulaski ordered it of the Moravian sisters at Bethlehem, who helped to support their house by needlework.”

On September 30, 1778, by a resolution in Congress, General Pulaski, with his legion, was directed to repair to Princeton to wait the orders of General Washington, or the commanding officer in New Jersey.

On October 15, while on the march to Little Egg Harbor, N. J., the enemy attacked the “corps, with 400 Men, at 3 o'clock, A. M., and after a smart Conflict were repulsed and pursued, with considerable loss on the side of the Enemy—and that the Count's Loss was estimated at about 30 Men Killed, Wounded and Missing: amongst the former were Lieut. Col. Baron de Bose and Lieut. de la Borderie.”⁵

In February, 1779, Pulaski was ordered to South Carolina, and later, in the same year he commanded the American and French cavalry at the siege of Savannah and during the attack of October 9, was mortally wounded. Captain Paul Bentalou, one of his officers, was by his side and although himself wounded, attended him until he died two days later on board the United States brig, the *Wasp*, on her way to Charleston, S. C., when his body was reluctantly consigned to a watery grave.⁶

The banner of the legion was most probably used during the rest of the war, as the survivors of the legion were incorporated

⁴ *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2d Series, vol. XI, p. 153 (1880).

⁵ *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, Tuesday, October 27, 1778.

⁶ *Pulaski Vindicated*, etc., by Paul Bentalou (anonymous), p. 30 (1824); also, *History of Georgia*, by Charles C. Jones, Jr., LL. D., vol. II, p. 403 (1883).

by a resolution of Congress February 23, 1780, with the corps of Colonel Armand, the Marquis de la Rouerie.

Captain (afterwards Colonel) Bentalou, on retiring from the army, took the banner home with him to Baltimore, together with a lancer's spear and Pulaski's sword cross belt, which had been bequeathed to him by Pulaski just before he died.

For forty-five years he preserved the banner, as he says, "as a holy and glorious inheritance, as a precious relic," but on the memorable visit of General La Fayette to Baltimore, October 7-11, 1824, it was carried by the Forsyth Company of Volunteers, Captain John F. Hoss, attached to the Second Regiment of Maryland Riflemen, on the day of the review of the citizen soldiers of Baltimore by the nation's guest.⁷ After the review it was deposited in the Baltimore Museum, where it remained for twenty years. The ownership of the Museum passed through various hands, but soon after it came into the possession of Mr. Edmund Peale it was presented by him March 6, 1845, through Mr. Brantz Mayer, corresponding secretary, to The Maryland Historical Society.

Colonel Paul Bentalou, who was Captain of the First Troop of Dragoons, in a pamphlet published by him in Baltimore, a few months before his death December 10, 1826, entitled "*Reply to Judge Johnson's Remarks, etc., Relating to Count Pulaski*," page 39, in possession of The Maryland Historical Society, in referring to the banner says: "It was deposited in the Baltimore Museum as 'a relick of old days,' interesting to Baltimore at least, which, when a village, had been the cradle of the legion, and *whose women, with a touch of patriotism, had caused this standard to be made and presented to the young corps.*"

The poet Longfellow has thrown around this banner such a glamour of romance and beauty, that it is to be regretted that it is lacking in historic truth. Including such historical writers as Lossing, Scharf, and others, everyone has been misled by Longfellow's poem written by him in 1825, before he was 19

⁷ *Federal Gazette and Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, October 8, 1824.

years of age, and one year before Bentalou's pamphlet appeared, in thinking that the banner was not only embroidered by the Moravian single sisters (they were not nuns) of Bethlehem, Pa., but also had been presented by them to Pulaski's Legion.

Baltimore has honored the name of Colonel Bentalou, Pulaski's friend and fellow soldier, a man of the very highest character and reputation, and who was United States Marshal for Maryland at the time of his death in 1826, at the age of 91, by naming a street after him in the western part of the city. A noble, brave, and venerable soldier, who long survived his old commander, but who never forgot him.

In a letter to the Council of Maryland, dated Annapolis, the 10th April 1779, Count Pulaski writes: "I Came down to have the honour of presenting my Compliments to you; in the meantime call for your assistance in my recruiting.—I clame Gentelmen for your steem and amity, calling my legion, Maryland legion I'll endeavor myself to have that name forever honoured by our friends and respected by our enemies, and that way reach to the glory whom I and my officers are found off."⁸

The banner is associated with the thoughts and handiwork of the Moravian single sisters of Bethlehem; the inspired hymn of a youthful poet; the patriotic gift of Baltimore women, whose sons doubtless were members of the corps; the romantic valor of the commander of the legion and the heroism of soldiers who died for the cause of liberty and freedom.

ROLL OF PULASKI'S LEGION.

Officers.

Count Casimir Pulaski Brigadier General.

Appointed by the Continental Congress, April 18, 1778.

Michael de Kowatz (Kowatsch) Colonel Commandant.

Count Julius de Mountford Major.

John de Zielinski⁹ Captain Lancers.

⁸ *Maryland Archives*, vol. XXI, p. 34.

⁹ *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. x, p. 364.

Appointed by the Continental Congress, October 5, 1778.

Charles Baron de Bose.....	Lieutenant Colonel.
Peter (Paul) Bentalou.....	Captain Dragoons.
Henry Bedkin.....	“ “
Jerome Le Brun de Bellecour.....	“ Infantry.
James Chevalier de Segond.....	“ “
Frederick Paschke.....	“ “
Joseph Baldesqui, (Paymaster).....	“ “
William Palmer.....	Lieutenant “
John Seydelin.....	“ “
James de Bronville.....	“ “
Francois de Roth.....	“ “
John Stey.....	“ Dragoons.
Francois Antoine de Troye.....	“ Infantry.
William Welch.....	2 nd Lieutenant “
Joseph de la Borderie.....	“ “
George Elton.....	Cornet Dragoons.
Adam Melchoir ¹⁰	“

Appointed by the Continental Congress, December 10, 1778.

Count Kolkowski.....	Captain.
(Served with Pulaski in Poland).	
Charles Frederick Bedaulx ¹¹	Lieutenant Colonel.

Appointed by the Continental Congress, February 1779.

Gérard de St Elme.....	Brevet Major.
Louis Celeron.....	Major.
Mons. Verney ¹²	“

Appointed by the Continental Congress, March 1, 1779.

Mons. O'Neill.....	Captain Infantry.
Baptiste Verdier.....	Lieutenant.

¹⁰ A list of the commissions issued, in the handwriting of Richard Peters, is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 59, Vol. II, folio 123. *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XIII, p. 981.

¹¹ *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XII, p. 1210.

¹² *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XIII, pp. 143, 215, 238.

Mons. Beaulieu.....	Lieutenant.
Mons. Kerlevan.....	“
Mons. la Close ¹³	“
Baron Charles de Frey ¹⁴	Captain.

A Captain Baitting or Bailling of Pulaski's Legion is mentioned in the Council Correspondence, May 5, 1778.¹⁵

Privates.

Recruits enlisted in Pulaski's Legion in Baltimore.

Edward Donnelly.....	enlisted April 10, 1778
William Rolph.....	“ “ 22, “
Henry Kent.....	“ “ “ “
Roger Owings.....	“ “ 27, “
John Collins.....	“ “ 28, “
Bryan Dallam.....	“ “ “
John Cain.....	“ May 4, “
William Herlity.....	“ “ 6, “
John Price.....	“ “ “ “
Nicholas Ryland.....	“ “ 8, “
Thomas Bond.....	“ “ “ “
Peter Neguire.....	“ “ “ “
Thomas Hault.....	“ “ 9, “
Charles Daemon.....	“ “ 10, “
James Carter.....	“ “ “ “
Philip Beatty.....	“ “ 11, “
John Tedford.....	“ “ 12, “
William Trugard (deserted).....	“ “ 22, “
Benjamin Prior.....	“ July 1779
Notley Tippet.....	“ “ “
Joseph Smith ¹⁶	“ “ “

¹³ *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XIII, p. 263.

¹⁴ *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XV, p. 1139.

¹⁵ *Maryland Archives*, Vol. XXI, pp. 67, 90, 111.

¹⁶ *Maryland Archives*, Vol. 18, pp. 592-593.

John Hooperenlisted 1778
 James Murray ¹⁷ " "

" A return of the Men belonging to the State of Maryland, who served in the First Partisan Legion commanded by Brigadier General Armand de la Rouerie, discharged November 15, 1783.

William Seth (Sergeant)enlisted 1778.
 Edward Donnelly " 1779.
 Peter Teams ¹⁸ " 1778."

Edward Donnelly was formerly a member of Pulaski's Legion, and most probably the other two were also.

First Troop? Dragoons Pulaski's Legion, commanded by late Lieutenant Beaulieu, November 1779.

Earnest Stearsenlisted March 12, 1778.
 Ebenezer Riggins " " 20, "
 Andrew George " " 22, "
 Ellias Nowell " " " "
 Jeremie Hoppe " " " "
 John Shaw " " " "
 Patrick Skirt " " " "
 Basile Wheler " " " "
 Robert James " " 28, "
 John Lealand " " " "
 John Lautherback " " " "
 Andrew McCowen " " " "
 Andrew Ollman " " " "
 Joseph Philips " " " "
 Isaac Rollins " " " "
 Hugh Fitz Patrick " April 10, "
 Adam Krauser " May 8, "
 George Ox " June 1, "
 Philip Frederick " September 1, "

¹⁷ *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XII, p. 916.

¹⁸ *Maryland Archives*, Vol. 18, p. 594.

Godfreid Hesse.....	enlisted Sept. 10, 1778.
Christian Dearling.....	“ January 2, 1779.
Gaspard Murson.....	“ August 28, “
Joseph Horton.....	“ “ “ “
Joseph Fitz Patrick ¹⁹	“ “ “ “

Muster Roll of the Second Troop of Light Dragoons Pulaski's
Legion, Captain Zielinski, (deceased), now commanded by
Captain Le Brun de Bellecour.

Francis Frainemaker (Sergeant)....	enlisted March 12, 1778.
Joseph Snyder (Corporal).....	“ “ “ “
Martin Miller “ (Penn.)..	“ “ “ “
Joseph Sack (Trumpeter).....	“ “ 20, “
Christian Dilman.....	“ May 8, “
Deobert Coop.....	“ September 1, “
John Skoop.....	“ “ “ “
Henry Skoop.....	“ “ “ “
Ludwic Leave.....	“ April 6, “
Martin Hatkinson.....	“ “ 13, “
John Poland.....	“ May 2, “
Ludwic Spoor (Sergeant).....	“ June 11, “
George Thomson.....	“ “ 15, 1779.
John Ferell.....	“ “ “ “
John Shee.....	“ July 1, “
Ludwic Begerhoff.....	“ “ “ “
Godfreid Hesse.....	“ “ “ “
Cornelius Love.....	“ November 28, “
Nicolas Masson.....	“ “ “ “
John Hamilton ²⁰ (Waggoner).	

Roll of First Partisan Legion, commanded by Colonel Armand,
Marquis de la Rouerie, July 1782.

Second Troop.

Henry Bedkin, Captain, formerly of Pulaski's Legion.
Baptiste Verdier, Lieutenant, “ “ “ “

¹⁹ *Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, U. S. Rev.*

²⁰ *Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, U. S. Rev., November, 1779.*

Privates.

Henry Bodwin, Maryland.

Edward Donnelly, " formerly of Pulaski's Legion.

Joseph Follett, "

Third Troop.

Le Brun de Bellecour, Captain, formerly of Pulaski's Legion.

La Hoya de Couterie, Lieutenant.

William Murdoch, Cornet.

Samuel Emerie, Maryland, Sergeant.

James Logman, " Corporal.

William Sept. " "

Privates.

William Bowman.	Maryland.
John Brown.	"
Thomas Brown.	"
Joseph Butler.	"
Robert Handwood.	"
Joseph Higdon.	"
Peter Limer (Waggoner).	"
Bazil Lowe.	"
Matthias Murray.	"
Elisha Steele.	"
John Steele.	"
John Steel.	"
John Thompson. ²¹	"

NOTE.—These Marylanders in the Second and Third Troop were doubtless former members of Pulaski's Legion. The Continental Congress, on February 23, 1780, passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That the remains of the legion of the late Count Pulaski be incorporated with the corps of Colonel Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie, etc."

From that date Pulaski's Legion ceased to exist, nearly all of its members having been either killed or wounded in defense

²¹ *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd Series, Vol. XI, pp. 142-150 (1880).

of the liberties of mankind. There are no officers or privates in the First, Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Troop of Armand's First Partisan Legion, mentioned as from Maryland, in July 1782.

Pennsylvanians in Pulaski's Legion.

Henry Bedkin, Captain.

John Shrader, Quartermaster.

Richard Laird, Sergeant.

Privates.

Isaac Andrew.

John Bentley.

Thomas Bond.

Frederich Boyer.

Richard Cheney.

Frederich Cook.

William Coram.

William Furnshield.

Joseph Fogg.

William Formshell.

Joseph Gale.

Benjamin Johnston.

Martin Miller.

Peter Miller.

John Myer.

James Rolls.

Frederich Ruger.

Edward Smith.

John Smith (3rd).

Peter Snyder.

William Sommerlott.

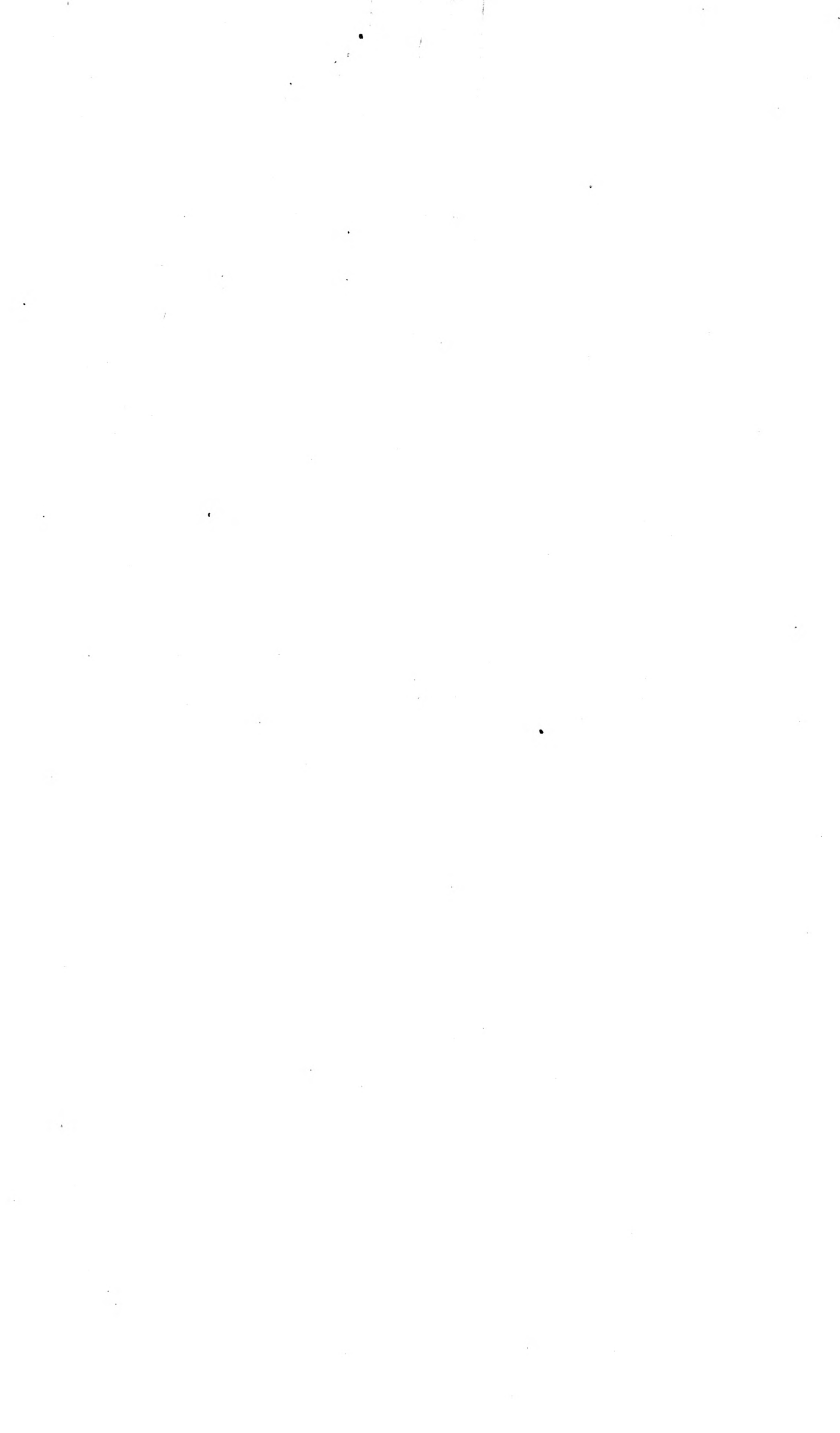
Henry Walker.

George Ziegler.

George Yohe.

John Shuler (Teamster).²²

²² *Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd Series, Vol. XI, pp. 155-156 (1880).





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